



**Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District**  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**HIGH DESERT STUDENTS INVITED TO APPLY FOR FIRST YOUTH  
ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

Victorville – Applications are now being accepted from local students in grades 8-11 to attend the High Desert's First Youth Environmental Leadership Conference (YELC), which will take place on Saturday, November 5 from 9:00AM to 6:00PM at the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) in Victorville.

YELC is aimed at building leadership skills and fostering the formation of environmental clubs within local schools, with an emphasis on teaching students about environmental stewardship and natural resource conservation. Sixty-six students from schools located within the High Desert portion of San Bernardino County and Riverside County's Blythe region will be selected to attend the one-day service-learning conference at no cost. Students selected to attend this year's event will also be invited to attend subsequent YELC conferences.

This year's conference – whose theme is "Being Air-Aware: When You Can't Breathe,

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Nothing Else Matters” - will engage students in three multi-media hands-on workshops on such air quality topics as clean transportation and energy choices, and how to successfully lobby elected officials for more effective environmental laws.

In appreciation for participating in this first-time event, each attendee will receive a \$50 Savings Bond, plus an official conference T-shirt and backpack filled with school supplies. Attendees will also be treated to lunch and snacks, and participate in an awards ceremony with their parents at the end of the day.

The conference is being sponsored by the American Lung Association-Inland Counties, the MDAQMD, the Mojave Environmental Education Consortium (MEEC) and Southern California Edison.

To be considered for participation, students must be nominated by a teacher, principal or school counselor. Nomination packages must be submitted by September 22 at 5:00PM. To receive a packet, or for more information, call the MDAQMD's Community Relations & Education Office at (760) 245-1661, ext. 6717. Applications may also be downloaded from MEEC's website at [www.meeconline.com](http://www.meeconline.com).

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